

Save the Knifetooth Sawfish (*Anoxypristis cuspidata*) (Latham, 1794)

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The Knifetooth Sawfish *Anoxypristis cuspidata* Latham is distributed widely in the Indo – West Pacific Ocean. It was once extensively fished from the shallow inshore and estuarine waters of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Australia, China, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Japan, Korea and Vietnam.

Due to extensive fishing and habitat loss, *A. cuspidata* was assessed as Critically Endangered and included in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. (ZSI 2011) (Compagno *et.al* 2006). The Population of Knifetooth Sawfish is getting reduced and fragmented day by day.

It falls in the family Pristidae, is physically characterized by the presence of a narrow rostral saw with prominent 16 to 29 pairs of distinctive dagger – shaped teeth on the rostrum but there are no teeth present along the quarter of the rostral saw nearest to the head.

Major threat to Sawfish is overfishing. The distinctive physical structure of long toothed – studded saw, makes them easily entangled into any sort of net gear, including primitive fishing technology. Already the population is fairly small and because of overfishing it is reduced extensively and sometimes it is also fished as bycatch along with some other commercially important fishes.

It is being caught exclusively for its flesh and oil – rich liver. The rostrum is being used in traditional Chinese medicine. There is also an increasing worldwide demand for live sawfish for aquarium trade.

Since 2001 the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests has protected all the species of sawfishes under the Wildlife Protection Act (WPA) 1972. The Knifetooth Sawfish and other sawfish species should be protected and conserved before they become completely extinct from this world.

References

Compagno, L.J.V., S.F. Cook, M.I. Oettinger & S.L. Fowler (2006). *Anoxypristis cuspidata*. In: IUCN 2012. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2012.1. <www.iucnredlist.org>. Downloaded on 23 June 2012.

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The 4th International Congress on Zoo Keeping 9-13 September 2012 Singapore

The 4th Conference of the International Congress of Zookeepers will be held in Singapore in 2012, hosted by Wildlife Reserves Singapore.

Theme: **"Many Voices, One Calling"**



Wildlife Reserves Singapore is proud to host in conjunction with the ICZ the 4th International Congress on Zoo Keeping, from September 9th to 13th, 2012. This conference themed **"Many Voices, One Calling"** hopes to bring together keepers and zoo professionals from around the World for the objectives of enhancing the professionalism of Zoo Keepers and the welfare of the wild animals in their care.

Delegates from every country have much to contribute. We encourage keepers to share their knowledge and experiences in the field of Zoo Keeping with their fellow keepers at this momentous event. We look forward to hear your **Many Voices** committing to our **One Calling**. See you in Singapore 2012!

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